

Sirs:

I strongly reject the notion that allowing major phone companies to negotiate access fees individually with independent ISPs will benefit the industry or its customers. On the other hand, it seems likely such action would solely benefit the phone companies.

How possibly can one believe that an individual, small, locally owned ISP could muster the market power and clout to negotiate a fair rental fee against a huge interstate carrier?

This is Econ. 101. Those with market power will exert it and force results that skew the outcome in their favor. By setting a fair access price for all ISPs, the FCC levels the playing field for all the little operators.

Rejecting this request will keep revenues in the local communities, creates jobs, and foster a sense of civic pride. After all, as President Bush has so often stated, he is 100% behind the ownership society. Further, he repeatedly refers to the fact that new jobs are created by the small entrepreneur, like local ISPs.

I urge you to reject BellSouth's petition.

Thank you,

B. Reading
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